



'Internet of Things' and Everything Else for the City of Gold Coast



Above from left to right: Roger McArthur (UCG), Russell Henriksen (Council), Ian Hatton (Council) and Peter Zeegers (UCG).

The City of Gold Coast is the local government area spanning the Gold Coast, Queensland, and surrounding areas. Major expansion over the last 50 years has seen the Gold Coast become the largest non-capital city in Australia, and the City Council is the second largest local government in the country behind Brisbane City.

As a result, City of Gold Coast (the City) has constantly planned and pushed forward to provide the infrastructure development required in this rapidly expanding city, that also attracts over 11 million visitors a year.

To support the ongoing growth of the city, and deliver high quality services to residents and visitors, the City is investing in a high fibre count Wide Area Network (WAN). The WAN will enable upgrades of the City's CCTV network in preparation for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, as well as supporting a range of other service upgrades.

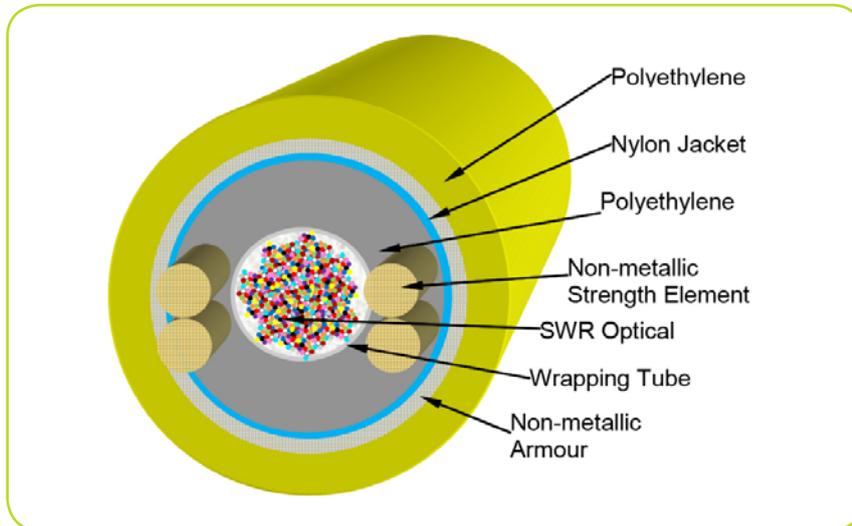
The network deployment project managers, Universal Communications Group (UCG) are one of the leading suppliers in the ANZ region, of a range of broadband design, cabling and construction services, particularly for next generation cable networks. For over 20 years, they have provided innovative fulfilment solutions to the telecommunications sector.

For this project UCG were successful in winning the City's tender and have since strengthened ties with AFL, who will be supplying over 20km of 864-core Spider Web Ribbon fibre to the project. The cable will be manufactured in Japan by parent company Fujikura, and adapted specifically for this project by adding Nylon, Non-Metallic Armour and Polyethylene locally. These processes and final testing were carried out in the AFL factory in Tottenham, Victoria.

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Spider Web Ribbon (SWR) is an innovative advancement in fibre density, whereby fibre optic cables are weaved. SWR achieves up to a 35% reduction in cable diameter by eliminating the high portion of lost space using traditional round tubes with loose fibres. The smaller cable diameter increases cable bend performance, means faster pulling speed and conduit feed, and more cable per drum for less weight. All these features result in reduced freight and installation costs, storage space, installation time, and vastly reduced space requirements for splicing enclosures.

Rex Buckley, UCG Technology Solutions Expert, commented that, "AFL have been extremely helpful and very supportive, and we have been able to demonstrate a close relationship between the manufacturer and constructor to the City of Gold Coast."

"This project really showcases our capability in the telecommunications market," said Daniel Rose, State Manager at AFL. "From large fibre count optical cables through to termination and fusion splicing, we are capable of delivering a complete and well-designed end-to-end solution."

Civil works are due to start and although no major difficulties are anticipated, completing on time alongside all the other activities taking place around the Gold Coast, both in infrastructure projects and events, will be a challenge. However, this is a challenge that UCG and its partners are confident they will be able to meet.